
**LABOR
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STATE OF UTAH**

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ON – THE – JOB

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COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

By R. Lee Ellertson, Commissioner

Inside.....

Contest Winners.....2

An Outside View.....4

The “Rules” Corner.....6

UALD – Outreach7

Contest Winners Agree – Safety Does Pay!

When Mahina Lasitani of Northwest Middle School in Salt Lake City, Utah, accepted

in the statewide contest and took home a check for \$500 for her winning entry. She was chosen from over 1,000 entries this year submitted by 26 different middle and junior high schools.

The poster contest, in its seventh year, is part of the Labor Commission's ongoing media campaign to "Take Safety Seriously". It is open to all middle and junior high schools across Utah.

Because the workplace impacts all people and families in Utah, the Utah State Legislature appropriated funds generated from a percentage of the workers' compensation premium to the Labor Commission to be used in informing citizens of the need for workplace safety. As students in the junior high and middle schools participate in the technology/life/careers "TLC" project and are the workers of the future, we believe it is important to begin the prevention process early by stressing safety.

(continued on page 2...)



Grand Prize Winner - 2004

the assignment from Jillana Butler, her art teacher, to enter the Labor Commission's Workplace Safety Poster Contest, she had no idea how well that decision would pay off. Mahina was selected as the Grand Prize Winner

This contest has generated great interest in workplace safety and those schools who have participated in the past have found it both rewarding and educational. The workplace safety posters could be done through the art department or integrated into the TLC curriculum and serve as a motivational learning tool.

Northwest Middle School was also a big winner. The Labor Commission matches any money won by students with an equal award to the school as well. In addition to Mahina's \$500 prize, Valerie Perez took Honorable Mention and was awarded \$100, making a

The other Honorable Mention award winners were: Lyndi Prestgard, Central Davis Jr. High; Taylor Martindale and Alyssa Williams from Millcreek Jr. High; Alexys Allen, Ephraim Jr. High; and Heidi Randall of Morgan Middle School.



Mahina Lasitani from Northwest Middle School won \$500 for her and \$500 for her school

These top 12 winners of the contest will each have

their entry featured in the Labor Commission's Workplace Safety calendar for 2005. The Commission distributes over 15,000 of the safety calendars throughout the year and we consider it a very effective tool in generating awareness to the public of the need for safety in the workplace.

Anyone interested in details of the contest for next year should contact Robyn Barkdull at the Labor Commission at (801) 530-6815 or by email at rbarkdull@utah.gov.



1st Runner Up went to Landon Henscheid from Timberline Middle School in Alpine

total of \$600 for Northwest.

The 1st Runner-up check for \$300 was awarded to Landon Henscheid of Timberline Middle School in Alpine. 2nd Runner-up honors, also \$300, went to Tanner Carver of Orion Jr. High School which is located in North Ogden.

Kaysville Jr. High School received a check for \$500 due to 3rd Runner-up winner, Josh Burch receiving \$300 and Troy Buttars and Austin Taylor each receiving Honorable Mention awards of \$100.



2nd Runner Up went to Tanner Carver of Orion Jr. High School in North Ogden

An Outside View

By Larry A. Patrick, UOSH Administrator

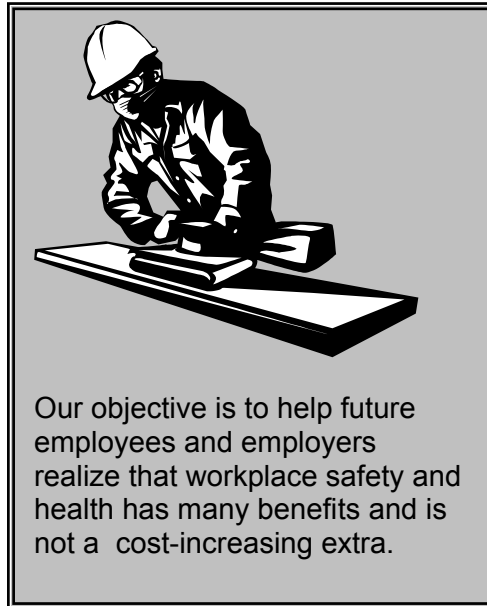
Our typical articles present an inside view of occupational safety and health topics so we thought we would try a different approach - an outside view of efforts we make to improve workplace safety and health in Utah. I want to thank Morton Salt, first for being a safety conscious company, and secondly for working with UOSH Consultation on this project. I also want to thank the UOSH Consultation team, under Louis Silva's leadership, for taking an innovative approach to improving workplace safety. Finally I want to thank Karen Scott of the Tooele Transcript-Bulletin for writing this article. Now it is time for the amateur writer (me) to step aside and yield center stage to the professional.

FFA workshop puts the focus on workplace safety – by Karen Lee Scott
TOOELE TRANSCRIPT- BULLETIN
March 9, 2004 – Reprinted with permission

Does safety in the workplace really matter for teens?

Ask this question to anyone of the more than 200 Grantsville High School students who participated in the Future Farmers of America (FFA) new safety campaign course and the answer will be a resounding "Yes."

Last week was the first time that such a program had been introduced at GHS and FFA Advisor Grant Peterson hopes it isn't the last. He added that plans for the next course are already under way.



Our objective is to help future employees and employers realize that workplace safety and health has many benefits and is not a cost-increasing extra.

The course was given to help students learn about the importance of safety at work and to help them think about how they can prevent accidents from happening.

"It was to heighten people's awareness of safety, not just in the shop, but also at their workplace," said R.J. Doorman, FFA Vice President. He added that the FFA had been planning for the event for several weeks before and after school.

Officials from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and members of the safety crew at Morton Salt teamed up with the FFA to make the campaign a success.

Students listened to lectures from the experts about potential workplace hazards and were given packets of information as well as a "Workplace safety calendar" from the Utah Labor Commission.

Students also watched a video of people who had been injured at various work locations by a number of different things such as chemicals, forklifts, saws and grinders.

The graphic video showed severed limbs, deep cuts, exposed bones and infected eyes.

The presentation also included photographs of Grantsville Middle School Principal David Whiting's hand which was injured Feb. 28 by a snow blower.

Whiting visited some of the classes in person on March 1, telling them that the machine had stopped working and not knowing there were two separate spinning chambers inside the machine when he put his hand inside to unclog it. The gears in the second chamber slipped and took off portions of two of his fingers on his right hand.

According to FFA members, Whiting said he just wasn't thinking and that he wasn't familiar with the equipment he was using.

To show the students how the injury looked, Whiting took off the bandages and slowly walked up

An Outside View

and down the aisles in between rows of desks.

Richard Doorman of Morton Salt made it a point to tell students that workplace accidents affect more than the person that the incident happened to.

He asked students if they knew of anyone who had been injured at work. One student responded saying her brother had all his toes chopped off by a forklift. He asked if the incident still affected him and she told of how he has to stuff his shoe with socks and that he is still embarrassed about the incident.

Doorman said that his own father had been killed in an industrial accident and because of that his children never knew their grandfather. "If we can prevent one injury from happening, this program is worth it, said Doorman.

Grant said most of the students seemed to respond well to the program. "It was definitely worthwhile."

The next course will likely deal with safety in the home.

As you have seen, UOSH believes an awareness of safety should start at a young age. UOSH has also initiated efforts to get involved in degree programs at Utah's universities. Our objective is to help future employees and employers realize that workplace safety and health has many benefits and is not a cost-increasing extra. If you have questions or would like to discuss UOSH consultation services, please call Louis Silva, Consultation Program Manager at (801) 530-6868.

The “Rules” Corner

The Utah Legislature has granted the Labor Commission authority to adopt rules for administration of some programs within the Commission’s jurisdiction. Pursuant to that authority, the Commission is engaged in the following rule-making activity.



I. RULES UNDER CONSIDERATION:

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
R602-2-4 Adjudication	Attorneys’ fees: The Commission is considering two proposals related to attorneys’ fees: 1) Increase in maximum amount of attorneys’ fees to keep pace with increase in benefit amounts; and 2) Allow attorneys’ fee not to exceed \$125 for up to four hours of consultation and review. Also allows costs to be deducted from the applicant’s award.	Will be presented to Advisory Council for discussion.
R602-2-22 Adjudication	Medical Records: The Commission has appointed an ad hoc committee to review Commission rules regarding release and use of medical records in light of HIPPA.	Upon completion, the Committee’s report will be presented to the Advisory Council.

II. RULES RECENTLY ADOPTED:

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
R612-2-5 Industrial Accidents	Medical fees: Increases conversion factor from \$40 to \$42 and updates references to the 2003 editions of RBRVS and Medical Fee guidelines.	Effective July 2, 2004.
R614-1-4 UOSH	Incorporation of Federal Standards: Adopts changes to federal OSHA rules regarding respiratory protection against tuberculosis and standards for commercial diving operations.	Effective July 2, 2004
R614-1-5 UOSH	Reporting Time: Conforms rule to recent statutory change that reduces time in which employers must report accidents from 12 hours to 8 hours.	Effective July 2, 2004
R616-2-3 R616-3-3 Safety	Incorporation of national codes: These amendments to the Safety Division’s Boiler and Elevator rules incorporate by reference the yearly addenda to the ASME and NBIC codes.	Effective April 1, 2004.

UALD - Education and Outreach Program

By Elena Bensor, Education & Outreach Coordinator

During the Fair Housing Conference held in Washington D.C. in June 2004, The Utah Anti-discrimination & Labor Division (UALD) was the recipient of the Fair Housing Assistance Program **National Education and Outreach Award**, sponsored by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

This award reflects UALD's commitment to educating the Utah community about Fair Housing issues, and the many achievements of the program since its implementation in February of 2004. At that time, Ms. Elena Bensor was hired as the new Outreach and Education Coordinator and has spearheaded the development and implementation of the new program.

During the few months since its inception, and under the guidance and direction of UALD Director, Sherrie Hayashi, UALD has seen its efforts rewarded by being recognized as one of the Nation's leaders in Fair Housing practices. This award will provide the Education & Outreach program with a strong foundation to continue educating the community about the protections afforded to all individuals under the Utah and Federal Fair Housing Acts.

Since its implementation, the program has made outstanding achievements by strengthening existing community ties and creating new partnerships throughout the State of Utah. These partnerships, with community and religious organizations, landlords, real estate, and lending agencies around the state, have been instrumental in identifying appropriate venues for educational opportunities, and achieving the division's goal of a well-informed community regarding housing discrimination and predatory lending issues.

The Fair Housing Act protects individuals from discrimination in the rental, sale, and financing of residential housing based upon a person's race, color, sex, national origin, religion, familial status (families with children under the age of 18), and in Utah, source of income (state, local or federal governmental assistance, including housing assistance).

The UALD offers free training sessions to anyone interested in learning more about housing discrimination and predatory lending practices



UALD Staff – Winners of the HUD Fair Housing Assistance Program National Education and Outreach Award presented in July 2004

affecting our community. Some of the services offered by the Education and Outreach program are:

- ❖ Workshops English/Spanish
- ❖ Presentations for large or small groups
- ❖ Training for landlords, real estate and lending companies
- ❖ Sponsoring community information tables
- ❖ Conference presentations
- ❖ Panel discussion participation
- ❖ Staff training to partner agencies, real estate and lending agencies
- ❖ Informational presentations with local Radio & T.V.
- ❖ Participation in community events

For more information, or to schedule an appointment, please contact:

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